

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF BRAZEAU COUNTY, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN BRAZEAU COUNTY ON TUESDAY MAY 23, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Reeve B. Guyon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**PRESENT**

B. Guyon, Reeve  
G. Gunderson, Councillor  
D. Wiltse, Councillor  
D. Ekstrom, Councillor  
C. Brooks, Councillor  
A. Heinrich, Councillor  
K. Westerlund, Councillor  
K. Edney Chief Administrative Officer  
T. Scharfl, Executive Assistant  
E. Esser, Customer Service/Administrative Assistant  
K. MacInnis, Corporate Communications Coordinator (by telephone)

**URGENT ADDITIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Addition to and Adoption of Agenda**

**272/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- 4. CAO Report
- b) Fire Update and Renewal of State of Local Emergency
- 15. Meeting Dates
- f) Town Hall Meeting - C. Brooks
- 12. General Matters
- c) Fire Review - B. Guyon

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Adoption of Minutes**

**273/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 Council meeting as amended: page 12 Motion 216/23-04-18 - C. Brooks was opposed.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**274/23-05-23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023 Council meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**275/23-05-23** Moved by G. Gunderson to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2023 Council meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**276/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 Council meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**277/23-05-23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2023 Council meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**BUSINESS  
ARISING**

**Business Arising**

**Follow Up Action List**

K. Edney reviewed the status of the action items.

**278/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to receive the Follow Up Action List for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**CAO REPORT**

**CAO Report**

**Technology, Innovation and Investment Attraction Committee**

K. Edney presented a request for the formulation of a committee to guide investment attraction initiatives within the County and oversee the Western Economic Corridor Project.

**279/23-05-23** Moved by G. Gunderson that Council approve the creation of the Technology, Innovation and Investment Attraction Committee and provides Administration with information to begin formulation of the terms of reference for the committee.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**280/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse that G. Gunderson, K. Westerlund and B. Guyon be appointed to the Technology, Innovation and Investment Attraction Committee.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Buck Creek Fire Update and Renewal of State of Local Emergency**

K. Edney reported on the current status of the wildfire within Brazeau County.

**281/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to receive the Buck Creek fire update for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**282/23-05-23** Moved by C. Brooks that as a local emergency remains in Brazeau County due to the RR64/Buck Creek fire still being out of control, threatening people and property within the County and Council hereby renews the Declaration of State of Local Emergency as of May 23, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Planning and Development**

Reeve B. Guyon declared pecuniary interest, as he is the applicant, and left the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Deputy Reeve K. Westerlund assumed the chair.

**Bylaw 1143-23 to Rezone SW 27-49-9-W5M from (AG) to (AGH)**

C. Dyck presented Bylaw 1143-23 for first reading.

**283/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse to give First Reading to Bylaw 1143-23 proposing SW 27-49-9-W5M [ $\pm 16.5$  ac ( $\pm 6.68$  ha)] be rezoned from Agricultural (AG) to Agricultural Holdings (AGH) as shown on the attached Schedule A, and that the Public Hearing for Bylaw 1143-23 be scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on June 6, 2023.

**IN FAVOUR**

A. Heinrich  
D. Wiltse  
D. Ekstrom  
C. Brooks  
K. Westerlund

**OPPOSED**

G. Gunderson

**CARRIED**

**Bylaw 1144-23 to Rezone Pts SE 16-49-8-W5M from (AG) to (AGH)**

C. Dyck presented Bylaw 1144-23 for first reading.

**284/23-05-23** Moved by C. Brooks to give First Reading to Bylaw 1144-23 proposing Pts SE 16-49-8-W5M [ $\pm 16.68$  ac ( $\pm 6.75$  ha)] be rezoned from Agricultural (AG) to Agricultural Holdings (AGH) as shown on the attached Schedule A, and that the Public Hearing for Bylaw 1144-23 be scheduled at 10:15 am on June 6, 2023.

**IN FAVOUR**

A. Heinrich  
D. Wiltse  
D. Ekstrom  
C. Brooks  
K. Westerlund

**OPPOSED**

G. Gunderson

**CARRIED**

Reeve B. Guyon returned to the meeting at 10:04 a.m. and resumed the chair.

**Rescheduling of Public Hearings**

Due to the cancellation of the May 9, 2023 meeting Administration requested the rescheduling of public hearings for Bylaws 1137-23, 1138-23 and 1139-23.

**285/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich that the Public Hearing for Bylaw 1137-23 be re-scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on June 20, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**286/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse that the Public Hearing for Bylaw 1138-23 be re-scheduled for 10:15 a.m. on June 20, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**287/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund that the Public Hearing for Bylaw 1139-23 be re-scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on June 20, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Reeve B. Guyon called for a break at 10:12 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 10:27 a.m.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Community Services**

**Draft Noise Control Bylaw 1140-23**

L. Chambers presented a draft Noise Control Bylaw to address concerns with noise levels at natural resources extraction sites.

**288/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich to amend the draft Bylaw 1140-23 Clause 23, to say "CAO must notify Council of any variation to the bylaw."

C. Brooks offered a friendly amendment "Clause 24"

A. Heinrich accepted the amendment.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**289/23-05-23** Moved by C. Brooks to give first reading to Bylaw 1140-23 as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**290/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich to give second reading to Bylaw 1140-23 as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**291/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to go to third reading to Bylaw 1140-23.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**292/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse to give third reading to Bylaw 1140-23.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Proclamation Alberta Rural Health Week**

**293/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to Proclaim May 30 - June 3, 2023 as Alberta Rural Health Week in Brazeau County.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**AGRICULTURAL  
SERVICES**

**Agricultural Services**

**Appointment of Weed and Pest Inspectors**

A. Kynoch presented the Weed and Pest Inspectors for appointment for the 2023 season.

**294/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to appoint Rhiannon Gressler, Jenna Smith, Hannah Mahan, Lexis Elliot, Shaye Sommerfeld, Riley Rogers, Riley Norton and Brent Erickson as weed and pest inspectors, valid until termination of employment.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Weed Inspection Rates**

A. Kynoch presented a request from the Agricultural Service Board to set rates for contract weed inspections services to the Village of Breton and the Town of Drayton Valley.

**295/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to establish the contract fee for weed inspection services to the Village of Breton and the Town of Drayton Valley at \$350.00 a day for the 2023 calendar year.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Reeve B. Guyon called for a break at 10:57 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 11:01 a.m.

**PUBLIC INPUT  
SESSION**

**Public Input Session**

Reeve B. Guyon opened the Public Input Session at 11:02 a.m.

Gary Sawyer, County resident, expressed concern regarding his livestock being affected by loss of fences and pasture due to the firefighting efforts; he requested his property be given priority to have his fences fixed. He further expressed concern with the subdivision to the north of his property and the trees there falling on the fence lines.

Tim Cameron spoke to communications issues around declaring a state of local emergency during the fire event. He stated that people he talked to are mad because they could not see smoke while sitting on top of Kos' hill. He asked for honest, clear effective communication and information to be given to the public. His ideas for communication include mail, TV, radio or a direct contact person.

Liz Seutter-Rosell commented that her family was at ground zero where fire started and has lost land due to firefighting efforts, she asked for information on remediation, and for the information to get to the producers on the unauthorized activity on their lands. She mentioned that during the evacuation she got a call that an oil tanker was allowed to go into the site. She found that this was disheartening that oil and gas industry has rights that residents don't and there always seems to be a preferential treatment to oil and gas over residents.

Alan Taylor asked if the County had an emergency evacuation plan in place? He commented that the fire is going to cost lots of money and he asked how is it going to be paid for? He spoke to the Malone Clinic shutting down and asked if the County is recruiting doctors? He asked why the County does not charge subdivision fees when people who subdivide make money.

Jean Huber spoke to communication during the fire. She believes that when there is a state of emergency she would like to get in touch with her councillor and she did call two councillors who said they didn't know what was going on. This left her with a lack of confidence in Council. She felt her questions were not being answered. She felt Council should have been there for the people.

Christel Durham thanked every single person behind the scenes, and she said they were blessed to have all these people. She cautioned Council that these disasters will happen more often and she would like to see the County and the Province put more effort into training the municipal employees. She also suggested the government do some kind of a program that gives people a basic understanding of what it takes to allow regular people to be able to assist.

Gary Sawyer spoke again about getting access to his property during the event. He could not get a pass and asked about a registry. He said his son was given a pass and was told to make it "quick" and that this was impossible as it is calving season. He had two calves

born during the fire. He stated that the county people were great but the authorities not so great.

Liz Sutter-Rosell mentioned that at the end before order was lifted when Hwy 22 south was closed they were using RR 64 as a detour which created a safety issue with dust and speeding.

Tim Cameron lectured that the world has changed with regards to regulations and leaders need to understand and acknowledge landowners will get involved to help their neighbours regardless of the rules.

Ali Alladra suggested Council give the people the training to help fight grass fires.

Carl Erikson resident of SE 1-49-08-W5M regaled his story of at the end of Twp 494 at RR 81 there was a barricade there. He was in on his property fighting fire, and when he came out he almost hit barricade and it was unlit. He was not allowed in there during the day but then County let him in and he said there were still no lights on the barricade at night.

Reeve B. Guyon closed the Public Input Session at 12:09 p.m.

Reeve B. Guyon called for a break at 12:10 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 12:55 p.m.

**296/23-05-23** Moved by C. Brooks to add resident concerns Gary Sawyer, Karen Drebert and Liz Sutter-Rosell to the agenda under general matters 12. d)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Public Works**

**Request for Road Closures**

C. Brooks presented a request for a road closure from a resident in the Poplar Ridge Industrial Park.

**297/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse to direct Administration to research the options for road closures as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Brazeau County Residential Concern for Division #1**

G. Gunderson presented a request for lease road maintenance from a resident.

**298/23-05-23** Moved by G. Gunderson to direct Administration to investigate what can be done for the Watson’s property SE 21-50-09-W5M.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Rocky Rapids Water Well Update**

A. Saltesz presented and update on the Rocky Rapids water well drilling.

**299/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to receive the Rocky Rapids Water Well report for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**BF 81139 and BF 81806 Culvert Replacement Tender Results**

A. Saltesz presented tender results for the bridge file culvert replacement projects.

**300/23-05-23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to direct Administration to proceed in awarding the bridge file culvert replacement tender for ROAD-0280 (BF 81139), and ROAD-0281 (BF 81806) to 2189040 AB Ltd in the amount of \$447,710.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

K. Westerlund left the meeting at 1:45 p.m. and joined by telephone at 1:46 p.m.

K. Westerlund left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

**Traffic Impact Hwy 39, Hwy 22 RR 65 and RR 70a**

A. Saltesz presented a report on the traffic impact of Hwy 39/Hwy 22/RR 65.

**301/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to write a letter to Alberta Transportation addressing the safety issues at the intersection.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**302/23-05-23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to direct Administration to investigate the use of a traffic circle at this particular instance.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Equipment Reserve Funding**

A. Saltesz presented a review of the existing equipment fleet and tentative equipment replacement strategy for the next 10 years.

**303/23-05-23** Moved by C. Brooks to approve the 10-year equipment replacement schedule and direct Administration to budget accordingly starting in 2024 budget.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## FINANCE

### Finance

#### Extension of 2023 Tax Due Date

C. Swap presented a request to extend the tax due date deadline to July 31, 2023 due to the recent wildfire that affected members of the community.

**304/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse to extend the due date for the 2023 taxes to July 31, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### Bylaw 1152-23 Tax Penalty Bylaw Amendment

C. Swap presented an amending bylaw to amend the levying of penalties on unpaid taxes for 2023 due to the recent wildfire.

**305/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich to give first reading to Bylaw 1152-23.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**306/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse to give second reading to Bylaw 1152-23.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**307/23-05-23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to go to third reading to Bylaw 1152-23.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**308/23-05-23** Moved by G. Gunderson to give third reading to Bylaw 1152-23.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## GENERAL MATTERS

### General Matters

#### Hamlet of Violet Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant Funding under Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership grant agreement

K. Edney presented a request to acknowledge the agreement with the Province for the funding for the Violet Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**309/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the Hamlet of Violet Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant Funding under Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership grant agreement for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

K. Westerlund returned to the meeting at 2:48 p.m. by telephone.

#### Fire Review

B. Guyon requested that the feedback from the fire be recorded for reference and discussion at a future meeting between Council and Administration.

**310/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse to direct Administration to set a meeting date for a Fire Review.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Public Works**

**Twp 495 Evaluation**

A. Saltesz presented an evaluation of the condition of Twp Rd 495.

**311/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to proceed with the Cape Seal Project on Twp 495 in the 2023 budget.

**IN FAVOUR**

G. Gunderson

D. Wiltse

B. Guyon

D. Ekstrom

K. Westerlund

**OPPOSED**

A. Heinrich

C. Brooks

**CARRIED**

**GENERAL  
MATTERS**

**General Matters**

**Committee Appointments**

K. Westerlund suggest Councillor G. Gunderson be appointed to the committees previously appointed to R. Swap.

**312/23-05-23** Moved by to appoint G. Gunderson to the Agricultural Service Board in replacement of B. Guyon.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**313/23-05-23** Moved by to C. Brooks appoint G. Gunderson to the Drayton Valley Library Board in replacement of C. Brooks.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Resident Concerns**

Council discussed residents' concerns with berms installed and fence repairs as a result of the fire fighting efforts.

**314/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the discussion for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## COUNCILLOR REPORTS

### Councillor Reports

Reeve B. Guyon attended:

- Online meeting with Minister Schultz
- ALUS
- Regular Council Meeting
- NSWA Watershed
- Warburg Seed Cleaning
- O'Chiese Meeting
- RMA Travel to Edmonton
- RMA Convention x 3
- ASB
- Soil Science Conference
- Planning Meeting
- Aggregation Workshop and RPAP Meeting

Councillor D. Ekstrom attended:

- Regular Council Meeting
- WRSD
- MPC
- Travel
- EOEP
- RMA x 2
- ASB
- WCFA

Councillor A. Heinrich attended:

- ARB Training x 2
- ARB Testing
- Regular Council
- Breton Library Board Meeting
- ASB
- MDP Workshop

Councillor K. Westerlund attended:

- EOEP Training
- Health Committee Meeting
- Regular Council Meeting
- RCMP Meeting
- Business Investment meeting
- Planning Workshop
- Pembina Physician Recruitment Meeting
- Healthcare Appreciation Meeting - no charge

Councillor C. Brooks attended:

- ARB Training x 3
- Regular Council Meeting
- Joint Meeting with Wildrose School Division and Village of Breton
- MPC
- Brazeau Foundation/Library Board Meeting
- RMA x 3
- Planning Workshop

Councillor D. Wiltse attended:

- ARB Training x 3
- WCAS Board Meeting
- Regular Council Meeting
- Joint Wildrose School Board Meeting
- MPC
- RMA Travel
- YRL Board - Proxy Vote - no charge
- RMA Convention x 3
- Planning Workshop

**315/23-05-23** Moved by G. Gunderson to receive the Councillor Reports for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MEETING  
DATES**

**Meeting Dates**

**Black Gold Gala 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pembina-Cardium Oilfield June 23, 2023**

**316/23-05-23** Moved by C. Brooks to defer the Black Gold Gala invitation to the June 6, 2023 agenda.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Date selection for Joint Session with Town of Drayton Valley**

**317/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich to suggest the dates of June 9 (preferred) or June 12 (alternate) for a joint council session with the Town of Drayton Valley.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Invitation for Reeve's message and attendance for June 24, 2023 Commencement Ceremony Frank Maddock High School**

**318/23-05-23** Moved by A. Heinrich authorize Reeve and/or designate to attend the June 24,2023 FMHS Commencement.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Seniors' Tea June 8, 2023**

**319/23-05-23** Moved by K. Westerlund to authorize Council's attendance at the Senior's Tea June 8, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Treaty Partner Gathering Aug 9 -10, 2023**

**320/23-05-23** Moved by D. Wiltse to authorize Council's attendance at the Treaty Partner Gathering Aug 9 -10, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Public Meeting regarding Fire Response**

**321/23-05-23** Moved by C. Brooks to direct Administration to add "joint public meeting" to the agenda at the upcoming meeting with the Town of Drayton Valley.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**322/23-05-23** Moved by D. Ekstrom that the regular Council Meeting of May 23, 2023 adjourn at 4:06 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Reeve**

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**Executive Assistant**

*Renewal of Declaration of a State of Local Emergency attached hereto forming part of the minutes.*